

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 RSR-01 /053 W

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R 231600Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2278

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 3504

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, EFIS, NU

SUBJECT: REPORTED VIOLATIONS OF FISHING ZONES

1. OPPOSITION MANAGUA NEWSPAPER LA PRENSA REPORTS AUGUST 21 THAT NICARAGUAN COAST GUARD HAS ARRESTED COSTA RICAN FISHING VESSEL MARY FRANCIS AND THAT COSTA RICAN CAPTAIN AND NICARAGUAN CREW HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO CUSTODY OF LOCAL JUDGE IN SAN JUAN DEL SUR, NICARAGUA'S SOUTHERNMOST PACIFIC PORT. THE STORY ALSO SAYS TWO NICARAGUAN VESSELS, THE SANTA CECILIA AND THE SANTA ISABEL, WERE RECENTLY ARRESTED BY COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES FOR FISHING IN COSTA RICA WATERS AND THE CREWS ARE BEING TRIED IN LIBERIA. LA PRENSA GIVES STORY FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE AS "FISHING WAR," AND CONTRASTS SEVERE PENALTIES ACCORDED NICARAGUANS FOR FISHING VIOLATIONS IN COSTA RICA WHICH CARRY FIVE TO TEN YEAR SENTENCES TO ANTIQUATED NICARAGUAN LAWS WHICH CARRY NO SUCH PENALTIES FOR SIMILAR OFFENSES.

2. ON AUGUST 19, LA PRENSA QUOTED COSTA RICAN NEWS SOURCE AS REPORTING SEIZURE OF MARY FRANCIS AND SPECULATED THAT THIS ACTION WAS IN RETALIATION FOR A RECENT INCIDENT IN WHICH GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA'S YACHT WAS SUPPOSEDLY FORCED TO LEAVE COSTA RICAN WATERS IN THE VICINITY OF CAPE SANTA ELENA THE WEEKEND OF

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AUGUST 11-12. THIS STORY WAS, ACCOROUNG TO LA PRENSA,

CARRIED IN COSTA RICAN NEWSPAPER LA NACION. EMBASSY
WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENT FROM SAN JOSE AS TO HOW
SERIOUSLY "FISHING WAS" LA PRENSA HAS DISCOVERED FROM
NICARAGUAN SIDE IS BEING TAKEN IN COSTA RICA. NICARAGUAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY APPARENTLY ATTACHES NO IMPORTANCE
TO RECENT INCIDENTS CONSIDERING THAT FISHING VIOLATIONS
IN WATERS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ARE FREQUENT AND
RESPECTIVE COURTS WILL, AS IN THE PAST, HANDLE MATTER
ROUTINELY WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO RELATIONS BETWEEN NICARAGUA
AND COSTA RICA.
SHELTON

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